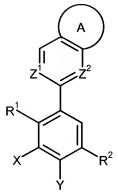
Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (I):

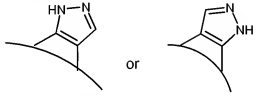


(I)

wherein

A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring ~~containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen which heteroaryl ring is~~

selected from



optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, $-(CH_2)_k-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, $-(CH_2)_kOR^3$, $-(CH_2)_kCO_2R^3$, $-(CH_2)_kNR^3R^4$, $-(CH_2)_kCONR^3R^4$, $-(CH_2)_kNHCOR^3$, $-(CH_2)_kSO_2NR^3R^4$, $-(CH_2)_kNHSO_2R^3$, $-(CH_2)_kSO_2(CH_2)_mR^5$, ~~a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl ring containing nitrogen optionally substituted by C_{1-2}alkyl or $-(CH_2)_kCO_2R^3$, and a 5-membered heteroaryl ring optionally substituted by C_{1-2}alkyl~~; or

A is ~~a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen which heteroaryl ring is~~ substituted by $-BR^6$~~, and~~ ; or

A is ~~the heteroaryl ring is~~ optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from $-OR^7$, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, $-CO_2R^7$ and C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy; or

A is ~~a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen which heteroaryl ring is~~ substituted by -$(CH_2)_n$heterocyclyl wherein the heterocyclyl is a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from oxo, C_{1-6}alkyl, -$(CH_2)_p$phenyl, -OR^7, -$(CH_2)_pCO_2R^7$, -NR^7R^8 and -$CONR^7R^8$, and

the A heteroaryl ring is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from -OR^7, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, -CO_2R^7 and C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy; or

A is ~~a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen which heteroaryl ring is~~ substituted by -$(CH_2)_q$aryl or -$(CH_2)_q$heteroaryl wherein the aryl or heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from oxo, C_{1-6}alkyl, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, -OR^9, -$(CH_2)_rCO_2R^{10}$, -NR^9R^{10}, -$(CH_2)_rCONR^9R^{10}$, -NHCOR^9, -$SO_2NR^9R^{10}$, -$NHSO_2R^9$ and -$S(O)_sR^9$, and

the heteroaryl ring is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from -OR^7, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, -CO_2R^7 and C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy;

R^1 is selected from methyl and chloro;

R^2 is selected from -NH-CO-R^{11} and -CO-NH-$(CH_2)_t$-R^{12};

R^3 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by up to two OH groups, -$(CH_2)_k$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, -$(CH_2)_k$phenyl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14} and -$(CH_2)_k$heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14},

R^4 is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^3 and R^4, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15};

R^5 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by up to three halogen atoms, C_{2-6}alkenyl optionally substituted by phenyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, heteroaryl optionally substituted by up to three R^{13} and/or R^{14} groups, and phenyl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14};

R^6 is a C_{3-6}alkyl group substituted by at least two substituents independently selected from -OR^{16}, -$NR^{16}R^{17}$, -CO_2R^{16}, -$CONR^{16}R^{17}$, -NHCOR^{16} and -$NHSO_2R^{16}$;

R^7 and R^8 are each independently selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^9 is selected from hydrogen, -$(CH_2)_u$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, -$(CH_2)_u$heterocyclyl, -$(CH_2)_u$aryl, and C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from -OR^{18} and -$NR^{18}R^{19}$,

R^{10} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^9 and R^{10}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15};

R^{11} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, -$(CH_2)_t$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, -$(CH_2)_v$heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{20} and/or R^{21}, and -$(CH_2)_v$phenyl optionally substituted by R^{20} and/or R^{21};

R^{12} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, -$CONHR^{22}$, phenyl optionally substituted by R^{20} and/or R^{21}, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{20} and/or R^{21};

R^{13} and R^{14} are each independently selected from halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, nitro, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, -$CONR^{22}R^{23}$, -COR^{24}, -CO_2R^{24}, and heteroaryl, or

R^{13} and R^{14} are linked to form a fused 5-membered heterocyclyl ring containing one heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15}, or a fused heteroaryl ring;

R^{15} is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{19} are each independently selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{20} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_t$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, -$CONR^{22}R^{23}$, -$NHCOR^{23}$, halogen, -CN, -$(CH_2)_wNR^{25}R^{26}$, trifluoromethyl, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more R^{21} groups, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by one or more R^{21} groups;

R^{21} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl, and -$(CH_2)_wNR^{25}R^{26}$;

R^{22} and R^{23} are each independently selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{22} and R^{23}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15}, wherein the ring may be substituted by up to two C_{1-6}alkyl groups;

R^{24} is C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{25} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and -$(CH_2)_t$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by C_{1-6}alkyl,

R^{26} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{25} and R^{26}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15};

B is selected from a bond, oxygen, NH and $S(O)_x$;

X and Y are each independently selected from hydrogen, methyl and halogen;

Z^1 is N or N=O and Z^2 is CH,

Z^1 is CH and Z^2 is N or N=O, or Z^1 and Z^2 are each independently selected from N or N=O;

k, m and w are each independently selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3;

n, q, r, s, t and x are each independently selected from 0, 1 and 2; and

u and v are each independently selected from 0 and 1;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable [[derivative]] salt thereof.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, halogen, $-(CH_2)_kNR^3R^4$, $-(CH_2)_kNHCOR^3$, $-(CH_2)_kNHSO_2R^3$ and $-(CH_2)_kSO_2(CH_2)_mR^5$, or A is substituted by $-(CH_2)_q$aryl wherein the aryl is optionally substituted by one or two substituents independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, halogen, cyano, $-OR^9$ and $-(CH_2)_rCO_2R^{10}$.

4. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is substituted by $-(CH_2)_kSO_2(CH_2)_mR^5$ or $-(CH_2)_q$aryl wherein the aryl is substituted by C_{1-6}alkyl or halogen.

5. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is methyl.

6. (previously presented) A compound according to claim wherein R^2 is $-CO-NH-(CH_2)_t-R^{12}$.

7. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein X is hydrogen or fluorine.

8. (original) A compound according to claim 1 substantially as hereinbefore defined with reference to any one of Examples 1 to 58, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

9. (Currently amended) A compound selected from:

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{1-[(1-methylethyl)sulfonyl]-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl}benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-5-[1-(2-thienylsulfonyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-4-methyl-5-[1-(2-thienylsulfonyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-3-[1-(cyclopropylsulfonyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]-5-fluoro-4-methylbenzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-4-methyl-5-[1-(3-methylphenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-5-(1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl)benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-3-[1-(2-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;

3-fluoro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl]-4-methyl-*N*-(1-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)benzamide;

3-fluoro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-*c*]pyridin-6-yl]-4-methyl-*N*-(1-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)benzamide;

3-[3-(acetylamino)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl]-*N*-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{3-[(2-methylpropanoyl)amino]-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl}benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-[3-(propanoylamino)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl]benzamide; and

N-(6-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)-2-thiophenecarboxamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~derivative~~ salt thereof.

10. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~derivative~~ salt thereof, in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents and/or carriers.

11. (cancelled)

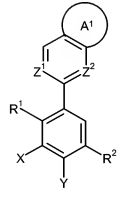
12. (withdrawn) A compound as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase.

13.(withdrawn) A method for treating a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

14. (cancelled)

15.(Currently amended/Withdrawn) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) according to ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~derivative~~ salt thereof, which comprises

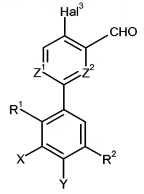
(a) reacting a compound of formula (II)



(II)

in which R^1, R^2, X, Y, Z^1 and Z^2 are as defined in claim 1 and A^1 is an unsubstituted fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen with a halide derivative,
in the presence of a base;

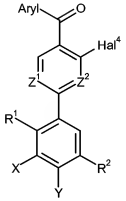
(b) when A is a fused pyrazolyl, reacting a compound of formula (XI)



(XI)

in which R^1, R^2, X, Y, Z^1 and Z^2 are as hereinbefore defined and Hal^3 is halogen, in particular chlorine, with a hydrazine derivative;

(c) when A is a fused pyrazolyl substituted by aryl, reacting a compound of formula (XII)



(XII)

in which R^1, R^2, X, Y, Z^1 and Z^2 are as hereinbefore defined and Hal^4 is halogen, in particular chlorine, with a hydrazine derivative; or

(d) final stage modification of one compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 to give another compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1.

16. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim [[2]] 1 wherein A is substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, halogen, $-(CH_2)_kNR^3R^4$, $-(CH_2)_kNHCOR^3$, $-(CH_2)_kNHSO_2R^3$ and $-(CH_2)_kSO_2(CH_2)_mR^5$, or A is substituted by $-(CH_2)_q$aryl wherein the aryl is optionally substituted by one or

two substituents independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, halogen, cyano, $-OR^9$ and $-(CH_2)_rCO_2R^{10}$.

17. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein A is substituted by $-(CH_2)_kSO_2(CH_2)_mR^5$ or $-(CH_2)_q$aryl wherein the aryl is substituted by C_{1-6}alkyl or halogen.

18. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein R^1 is methyl.

19. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein R^2 is -CO-NH-$(CH_2)_t$-R^{12}.

20. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein X is hydrogen or fluorine.

21. (New) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Z^1 is N or N=O and Z^2 is CH.

22. (New) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Z^1 is CH and Z^2 is N or N=O.

23. (New) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^2 is -CO-NH-$(CH_2)_t$-R^{12}.

24. (New) A compound according to claim 21 wherein R^2 is -CO-NH-$(CH_2)_t$-R^{12}.